

C15-H5-E4896J

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Israeli Intervention: The Israelis appear to be in a high state of alert. Israeli troops, tanks and artillery were observed moving north yesterday in the general direction of the Golan Heights, from which they could easily reach the Irbid area if required.

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Soviet Attitude: The Egyptians have assured us that the Soviets made a demarche in Damascus yesterday in an effort to get the Syrians to reconsider their actions in Jordan; this and other bits of evidence suggest that Moscow has made real efforts in the Arab capitals to localize the action in Jordan and bring it to an end. Aside from predictable naval activity in response to our fleet movements in the Mediterranean, the Soviets have made no threatening military gestures, and their public and private admonitions have in the main been temperate and cautiously worded.

In the event of western or Israeli intervention, the Soviets would probably consider demonstrative gestures such as shifting elements of their Mediterranean Squadron, reinforcing the Soviet military presence in the UAR, or moving a token military contingent by air into Syria. At the same time Moscow would resort to heavy diplomatic pressure and virulent propaganda attacks. There is no evidence that the Soviets are making even contingency preparations for direct military involvement. The Soviet reaction seems likely to be the same whether a western country or Israel intervened.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

State Dept. review completed

MORI C03234985

NSA review completed

DIA review(s) completed.

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Attached to IS cover memo, H5-E489a, 22 Sept. 1970

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Iraqi Attitude: The Iraqi attitude has been ambiguous since the start of hostilities. Except for a few minor and unconfirmed instances, the Iraqi forces in Jordan have gone to great lengths to keep clear of the fighting and have assured the Jordanians they have no intention of joining in.

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This morning some of the Iraqi units concentrated around Mafrag began moving westward toward Jarash;

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This movement,

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has alarmed the Jordanians, whose situation in northern Jordan would be badly compromised if the Iraqi actions prove to be hostile.

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The Situation in Jordan

22 September 1970

Amman: Fighting in the city became general again this morning, and the curfew was reimposed at 1030. The Embassy area continues to be a main focus of the fighting, and the Jordan army has been unable either to bring in supplies or remove the wounded Bedouin guards. Amman airport was still subject to fedayeen sniper fire, and we have no clear idea of its security. Judging from the firing and from [REDACTED]

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The general situation of the city is probably as bad as the press has described it; Yasir Arafat told Nasir that 80 percent of the buildings in the Wahdat refugee camp had been destroyed and that 7,000 casualties were suffered in the camp alone.

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